

The RISE of

The Stocks

The Ruin of

The PEOPLE,

Plainly DEMONSTRATED,

In Three Letters to a Member
Of PARLIAMENT.

Wherein is contained a Short Scheme for
the Real reducing of the publick Debts, on
Occasion of his Majesties Speech for that
Purpose; with a Vindication of the said
Scheme, and the State of the Coin and
Credit.

With proper REMARKS on the Whole.

*Monstrum Horrendum, Informe, Iagens, cui Lumen
ademptum.*

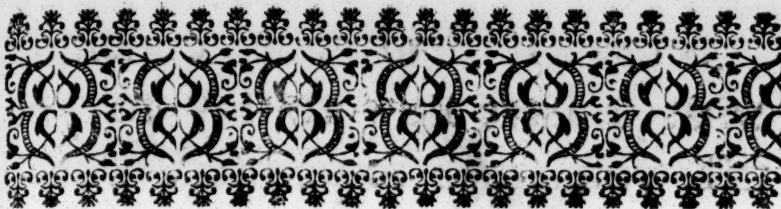
Virgil.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. BOREHAM, at the *Angel in*
Pater-Noster-Row. MDCXXI.



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S I R,



THE unhappy Circumstances several Families are reduced to, by the late extravagant Rise of Paper Credit, have induced me, this third Time, to address myself to you; wherein I take the Liberty, once more, to lay before you my former Sentiments on this Subject, and I leave it to you, and the World, to Judge, whether the Consequences have not been answerable to my Assertions.

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SIR, I shall not conclude,
what I have now to say to you,
till you have re-perused, what I
wrote you before on this Sub-
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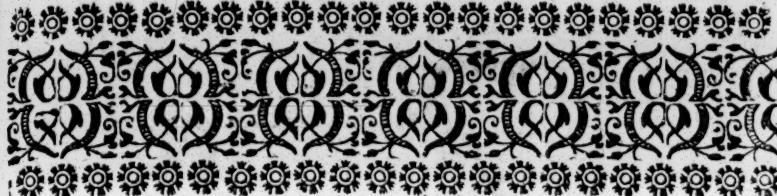
SIR,

Your most Obedient

Servant.

October the 18th,
1720.

L E T.



LETTER, I.

February the 25th, 1716-17

Much Honoured SIR,

 Had the Favour of yours of the 22d, and was extreamly pleas'd to find, that the King and Parliament, have resolved to enter into Measures to reduce the publick Debts. I have, in Obedience to your Commands, inclos'd to you a Proposal for effecting the same, in such a Manner, as shall put our Estates in the Funds, upon a solid Foundation: The Time being short, that I had to consider of them, perhaps the Calculation may not be exactly perfect, but be they more or less, it will make but little Difference in the Scheme. I submit to your better Judgment, and am with the utmost Respect,

Honoured Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant.



*A Method to reduce by Degrees
the heavy and insupportable Bur-
then of the National Debts, viz.*

10 Millions in Annuities for 99 Years.

5 Millions, or thereabouts, in Exche-
quer Bills.

15 Millions in Lotteries, Classes, 9 per
Cent. Annuities, &c. 32 Years.

20 Millions in South Sea Stock, East India
Stock, Bank Stock, and Bank Annuities.

In all fifty Millions.

FOR the several Sums abovementioned,
the Government pays several Inter-
ests, from 9 to 4 per Cent. which upon the
nearest Computation, amounts to near 7
per Cent. in an Average upon the whole,
the Funds for the Payment amounting to
near 3, 500, 000. per Annum.

The Dutch have reduced their Interest
from 4 per Cent. to 2 and a Half, and
pass'd a Resolution, that the Reduction
should affect Foreigners equally with them-
selves.

The

The *French* have reduc'd theirs to almost nothing.

The same Necessity, that hath induc'd the *French* and *Dutch* to take such Measures, ought by *England* to be consider'd; if not, by the Time they have eas'd themselves of their Burthen, we shall sink under ours.

If by the subsequent Method of Reduction, we should leave our Credit Superior to any other Nation's, I think it must answer all Objections from Abroad.

All therefore that is to be consider'd, is to take such Measures in the reducing them, as will best consist with the Necessity of our Affairs, and with the most equal Justice to the several Persons concern'd, that the Nature of them will admit of.

In order thereunto it is proposed,

THAT the 20 Millions of *South Sea Stock*, *East India Stock*, *Bank Stock*, and *Bank Annuities*, be paid off by the Government by National Bills bearing 3 *per Cent.* Interest, payable in Course, as hereafter.

THAT for the 15 Millions payable in 32 Years, the like Bill be made at 3*l.* 10*s.* *per Cent.*

THAT for the remaining 15 Millions the like Bill be made at 4 *per Cent.*

THAT

THAT the Bills be made at 100*l.* each, and the Interest thereof be paid Quarterly out of the *Exchequer*.

By this Method, 1, 725000*l.* will pay the Annual Interest for the whole, and the Government save 1, 775000*l.*

The aforesaid 1, 775000*l.* with the Land-Tax, and the Malt, will sufficiently provide for any War, in Case it should happen, and consequently the Nation stand in no further need of Credit.

In Time of Peace, the whole, or what Part of it shall be thought convenient, may be applied towards paying off the Debt.

The Persons concern'd in Annuities I have allow'd 4 *per Cent.* in Consideration of their Term being taken from them: The *Exchequer* Bills I have put at the like Interest, because the Persons concern'd therein have received the least Interest: these 15 Millions ought to be paid off first, they being at the highest Interest.

I have put the 15 Millions for 32 Years at half *per Cent.* less, because they have received so large an Interest for the Time, and they ought to be paid off next to the 15 Millions, at 4 *per Cent.*

There remain then 20 Millions, and I have put them only at 3 *per Cent.* because I propose, That the East-India Company shall have their Trade continue to them, which

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is also Beneficial, that for several Years past, both in War and Peace, they have divided 10 per Cent. per Annum; whereas the Government pay'd them but 5 per Cent.

The *South-Sea*, to have their Trade continued to them for the Benefit of their Proprietors.

The *Bank*, to have their Charter continu'd, (taking in the *Bank* Annuities, as joint Proprietors with them) till their whole Debt is paid off, and for what further Time it shall be thought fit to allow. *Note*, The *Bank* at present divides 8 per Cent.

The three Companies may Register their Bills; the Bills must be divided into several Lots, and the Adventurers must take their Chance for the Course of Payment.

It is proposed likewise, That every annual Sum to be paid off, shall for that Year receive no Interest, which will save the Government near 3 Millions in the Whole.

National Interest to be reduced to 4 per Cent. and the Reduction to affect all Money already lent, as well as what shall be lent hereafter, which will be a great Ease to incumber'd Estates, and very much for the Benefit of Trade, &c.

By these Means the Debts of the Nation, even in Time of War, cannot be increas'd; in Time of Peace will be gradually lessened, till the Whole is paid off, which will

be a thorough Security to all the Proprietors of them, and render the King and Nation, formidable and safe.

The *Bank*, for several Years have borrowed Money on their sealed Bills at 3 per Cent. and the *South-Sea*, and *Indian* Companies, now borrow Money on their Bonds at 4 per Cent; what Reason can then be alledged, that the *Exchequer* should not have a superiour Credit, which has always been the Support to the Whole?

THE Objections to this Scheme are, Breach of Publick Faith, and Public Credit. As to the first: Publick Faith is what the Legislative Power thinks fit to make it: and the same Power, that on the pressing Necessities of the State thought fit to establish such large Interests, may, and ought, on the like pressing Necessities of the State, reduce them in such Manner as shall best consist with the Publick Security.

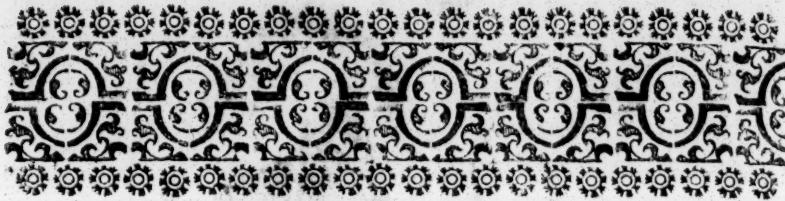
As for the Publick Credit, if the above Scheme be followed, we shall have no Occasion to make use of it; and happy it had been for this Nation if we never had; we never then should have laboured under the Burthen we now feel, and our Taxes had ended with our Wars.

The Landed Gentlemen for these twenty eight Years have paid the fifth Part of the

the Income of their Estates, (besides their Share of all other Taxes) for the Support of the late Wars, and the Preservation of our Religion, Liberties, and Properties, from Popery and Slavery.

I therefore think it is but highly necessary and Reasonable, that all that have Estates in the Funds, should readily consent to take such Interests for their Debts, as may secure their Principal to be paid in due Course.





LETTER II.

March the 10th, 1716-17.

SIR,



INCE, you have been pleased to communicate to the Publick, the Propofal that I enclosed to you in my last, concerning the Publick Debts, and as the Publishing of it has made some Noise, and raised some Objections that are not taken Notice of in the said Propofal, I give you the Trouble of this fecond Letter, wherein I have Stated, and endeavoured to answer, what Objections I have heard.

In the first Place, I shall take notice of the General Arguments that are raised against any Reduction, and afterwards assign some particular Reasons for the Method proposed.

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The Persons concerned in the Funds alledge, That they advanced their Money to the Government, when it was in the utmost necessity, and run the Risque of losing their Fortunes, to support the late Wars, and the Protestant Succession; and that it would be very unjust to deprive them of the Advantages they now make, considering the Risque they run before.

I beg Leave to ask these Gentlemen, Whether they advanced their Money for the Sake of the Government, or for the Advantage they made of the Government?

If for the latter only, the Government weds them the same Obligations, as a Gentleman in Distress does to a Usurer, who takes an Advantage of his present Necessity, and by Extortion ruins him.

I perswade my self, that very few will own, that they lent their Money for such base and mean Ends: Much the greatest, and I am sure the most generous Part of them, chearfully advanced their Money for the Publick Good. The same Publick Spirit that made them so readily advance their Money in the Government's Distress, still continues to preside over all their Interests and Actions; and very many amongst them have publickly declared, that they think it absolutely necessary, to reduce them in such

a manner, as may put the Nation beyond a Possibility of running further in Debt, and secure the Debts already contracted, to be paid in the best Manner that may be.

It is an undoubted Maxim, that every private Person must and ought readily consent to a publick Good.

Another Argument made use of, is, That the Foreigners having at least Fifteen Millions Sterling, in our Funds, (should they foresee a Reduction of them,) would immediately withdraw their Effects, and thereby considerably lessen the Value of our Funds.

I must confess, this is a powerful Argument, and ought to have great Weight with Stock-jobbers: But if it is weighed in Balance with the Interest of the Nation, it will appear to be a most prevailing Argument to the contrary.

This is the Case: The Powers engag'd in the late Wars, finding themselves obliged to take up Money at large Interest, for the pressing Occasions of their respective States (from Time to Time, during the Continuance of the War;) at the Conclusion thereof, looking into the State of their Affairs, and finding themselves unable to continue such large Interests, prudently resolved to enter into Measures for the reducing of them.

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In Consequence whereof, the Money'd-men abroad pour'd their Money into *England* to make the largest Interest, and That to so great a Degree, that it is computed, that at least one Third of the National Debts is in the Hands of Foreigners, or of Merchants, here intrusted by them for their Use; by which Means, the Nation stands mortgaged to Foreigners, to pay them upwards of a Million *per Annum* Interest.

Can the Nation subsist, and have a constant Draught on it from abroad for a Million *per Annum*? Is it reasonable, that those that pay no Taxes of any Kind soever, that spend none of their Money here, should expect to receive such unreasonable Interest? Can they complain of any Injustice done to them, when they themselves have set us the Example? To imagine, that they would all sell out, should the Debts be reduced to 4 *per Cent.* (which is a larger Interest by one and a half *per Cent.* than they can make abroad) is to imagine, that they know not their own Interest; and if, they should sell out, it would be very happy for us, for the Debt would not be half so burthensome, were it all among our selves.

Another Objection to any Reduction is, the Danger of doing it at this Time, when we are threatned with an Invasion from abroad.

What is here offered as an Objection, in my Opinion should be a Motive for the doing of it : If we are obliged to go into a greater Expence, there is an absolute Necessity, that the Money'd-men should bear their Part of it.

The King has declared from the Throne, That the Burthen is intolerable ; the Commons have declared, in their Address, that they will reduce it : The King has particularly thanked them for that Resolution ; the whole Nation expects it ; and where then can be the Danger ?

Did not the late King *William*, of ever glorious Memory, in the Time of War with *France*, call in all the Coin of the Nation ? Was it not then alledged to be a dangerous Experiment ? Yet the Consequences of it shewed the Folly of such Allegations ; the Bustle and the Hurry was soon over, and the Nation, by that one Step, saved from inevitable Ruin.

I think, nothing more need be offered, to shew the Necessity of a Reduction ; I shall therefore only add a Word or two about the Reasonableness of the Method proposed.

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As a Reduction is absolutely necessary, so is it, that the Method of doing it should be in such a Manner, as, for the future, to put the Funds upon a solid Foundation.

If therefore 1,775,000 *l. per Ann.* in Time of Peace, be applied to pay off the Principal; in how short a Time may the whole Debt be paid off?

If, in Time of War, we have no Occasion to borrow Money, the Estates in the Funds, when they shall be well settled, will be of greater Value than they are now, though they should be reduced in the Manner proposed.

Four *per Cent.* on the Annuities, payable quarterly at the *Exchequer*, without Trouble, without Charge, and the Principal Money back again, is much more than can be made on Land: And as to the Jointures made of them, the reducing the Interest will not affect the several Intails. On some of them above twenty Years are already expired: On the last of them nine Years are run. If no Rebate be made for the Time elapsed, and the whole Principal Money be paid back again, I think every person, who has any Regard for his Posterity, instead of opposing such Measures, should use all his Interest to get them complied with.

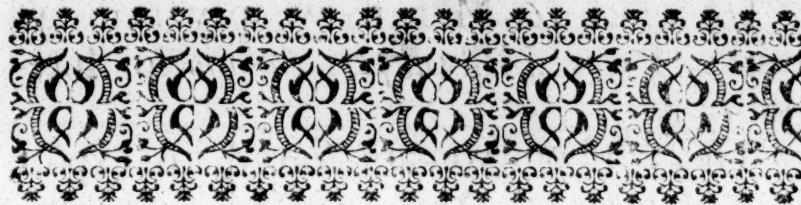
Of those that are granted for thirty two Years, already seven are elapsed; so that only twenty Five are remaining to them, and then their Principal would be sunk, if the Funds were sufficient to answer; as they are not, I think they have little Reason to complain, if in Lieu of their Interest, they shall receive back their Principal.

As to the remaining part, that are put at 3 *per Cent.* as I observed to you in my last, the several Trades and Charters belonging to their Proprietors being continued to them, they will be on a much better Footing than any of the Former that are placed at 3 and a half, and four *per Cent.* and they therefore will have the least Reason to complain.

I beg your Pardon for detaining you so long, and shall only add, that in Case a Reduction is resolved on, and it is not effectually gone thorough with, so as not to leave the Funds precarious and insecure, but to put them on such a Foundation, as never more to have Occasion for any further Reduction, Credit will be always languishing, the People concerned always uneasy, and jealous every Sessions of farther Reductions: The Consequences of which, are humbly submitted to yours, and the rest of our Noble Patriots Consideration, by, *SIR*,

Your Obedient Servant.

The



The State of the COIN and CREDIT of the Kingdom.

March the 1th, 1718.



HE present Debts of the Nation amount to 55 Millions of Pounds *Sterling*.

Upon the nearest Computation the Amount of the Silver and Gold Coin in the Kingdom does not exceed Ten Millions, which being taken out of the 55 Millions that the Nation owes, we now stand indebted and mortgaged for 45 Millions of Pounds *Sterling* more than the whole Species in the Nation.

Upon the best Enquiry, and the strictest Examination that can be made, it appears, that the *Dutch*, the *French*, the *Spaniards*, the *Genoese*, *Venetians*, *Italians*, *Germans*, *Portuguese*, and other Foreigners, have at

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least 16 Millions of Pounds *Sterling* in our Funds.

For which 16 Millions we pay them upwards of one Million *per Annum* for Interest only.

This Million we are forced to export in Bullion every Year, which has Occasioned the melting down great Part of our Silver, and much of our Gold Coin ; and unless prevented, will, in very few Years, draw away all the Money out of the Kingdom. Great Part of the Publick Stocks, and other Publick Securities, which have been purchased by the Foreigners, did not cost them much above half the Value, they now sell for : So that, notwithstanding they have received such extravagant Interest for what they have purchased, yet, on Sale of any Part thereof, at the current Price, they must gain above Forty *per Cent.* on their Principal.

Whatever Money is gained by the Foreigners by their selling their Stocks here to us, at so much higher Prices than they bought them for, is so much real Loss to this Nation : for if a Foreigner sent, (as a great many did) only 63*l.* 10*s.* nine Years ago, that 63*l.* 10*s.* did then purchase 100*l.* *South-Sea Stock*; for which he has ever since receiv'd 6*l.* *per Annum* for Interest ; and if he now sells it, he will receive 119*l.* Principal,

cipal, for what cost him only $63l.$ 10s. So that he gains $55l.$ 10s. upon every $63l.$ 10s. and draws back again from us $119l.$ for even $63l.$ 10s. besides nine times $6l.$ for the nine Years Interest, which is $54l.$ more, and makes together $173l.$ Upon which Computation, they have made, in nine Years Time, near $200l.$ per Cent. Profit on all the Stocks they have purchased here; and so in Proportion on Annuities, Classes, Lottery-Tickets and all other Publick Securities purchased by them in our Funds.

The *French*, foreseeing the Destruction of their Kingdom, if they continued paying extravagant Interest, at the End of the late War, prudently enquired into the State of their Revenues, and finding themselves uncapable to pay such large Interest any longer, chose rather that particular Money'd-men should suffer in their private Fortunes, than their Nation should be ruined: And therefore, by several Edicts, have from Time to Time ever since, as the Necessity of their Affairs requir'd, reduced both the Principal and Interest of their Publick Debts.

The *Dutch* have not only reduced their Interest very low, but are even uncapable to pay their Interest, altho' it is so much reduced; and their State is in a Manner become Bankrupt.

Eng:-

England alone continuing to pay such extravagant Interest, the Jews and the Usurers amongst the Foreigners, not being able to make any further Prey of other Countries, have poured in their Money upon our Funds; the lessening of the Interest abroad being the great Reason of their having so large a Share in our Funds.

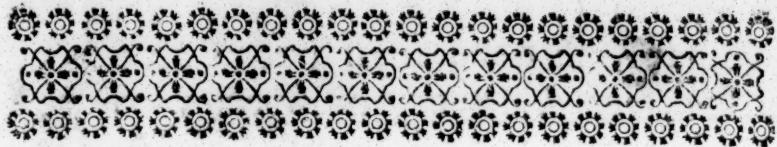
What little Reduction has been made in our Interest on the *South-Sea Company*, Bank and Lotteries, instead of being applied to the Discharging and sinking of the Debts of the Nation, has actually increased it; for the Deficiencies and Exceedings of the late Years, and the Arrears and Clearings of the Army, and other Debts, which before had no Parliamentary Security, have been ordered to be provided for out of what they call the Saving or the Sinking Fund: So that when the Debentures shall be issued for the Payment thereof, the Nation will owe 55 Millions of Pounds *Sterling*, or thereabouts; whereas before this Reduction we only owed 50 Millions.

Whilst the *French* and the *Dutch* are endeavouring to lessen and discharge the Debts of their respective States, we are continually adding to ours; and it is utterly impossible but the Consequences must be the total Ruin and Destruction of us.

The very Interest we pay the Foreigners only, in a very few Years, will drain the Kingdom of all the Silver and Gold Coin we have, that we shall not be able to find a sufficient Currency of Species to go to Market with. And should the Foreigners foresee any new War abroad that we may be engaged in, or any intestine Troubles at Home, they may, in two or three Posts, draw out so much Money from our Funds, that the Nation would inevitably become Bankrupt.

And if once we make a Stop in our Payments, our *Bank-Notes*, *Exchequer-Bills*, *Stocks*, *East-India Bonds*, *Annuities*, and all other Publick Securities, will be of no more Value than the Notes and Bills of Exchange of broken Merchants and Bankers.





REMARKS.



If the above State of the Coin and Credit is true, it requires the utmost Care of the Legislature to Prevent the ill Consequences of it ; if false, it ought to be contradicted.

We all too sensibly perceive the Scarcity of the Silver Coin ; and by the late Reduction of Guineas, an Encouragement of two and an Half *per Cent.* is given to the Exportation of Gold Coin.

To alledge, that it is contrary to Law to Export our Species, is of little Weight, when all Persons that have been in *Holland* very well know, that both our Gold and Silver Coin is as current at *Amsterdam* as at *London*.

Besides, how easy is it to melt down our Guineas into Ingots, and our Silver into Bars ? How then shall it be distinguished from

from Foreign Gold and Silver, which may be exported by Law?

That we have great Reason to believe, that this is constantly practised, consult only the Bills of Entry, and you will find, that there has been Exported in Gold and Silver, in less than six Months past, the Value of Seven hundred and twenty thousand Pounds Sterling.

England and *France* act upon quite different Schemes: The *French* raise the Value of their Species much beyond the intrinick Worth of it, to encourage the bringing of it into their Kingdom; We, in *England*, lower the Value of our Species, which encourages Foreigners to draw it out.

I won't take upon me to determine, who act upon the wisest Foundation: but this I am sure of, that if we suffer all our Gold and Silver to be Exported, our Paper-Credit will be of less Value than King *James's* Brass Half-Crowns, or the King of *Sweden's* Copper Mint-Tokens.

If the Method proposed in the first Letter had been put in Practice, it would, no doubt, have prevented the Nation's being plunged into the Difficulties it now labours under.

Our Credit would have stood on a much firmer Foundation than it does at present; if instead of encreasing our Debts (as we

have actually done) we had paid off 1,775,000 *l. per Ann.* in Part of the Principal, according to the Scheme laid down.

If we may compare great Things with small, is not a greater Credit to be given to that Person, who pays off a Part of his Principal Debt, than to him that takes up more Money on the same Security? For the Whole must be paid, before the Security can be redeemed.

Doth not the *Bank* circulate *Exchequer* Bills at 1*l. 10s. per Cent. per Annum* Interest? Is not the *Exchequer* the Support of the *Bank*? Can the *Bank* pay the Demands on them without that Support? Is not the Parliament the Support of the *Exchequer*? Why then should not the same Credit be given to National Parliamentary Bills, made out at 3*l. per Cent.* (which is the lowest in the above Scheme) as is given to Bills circulated by the *Bank*, at 1*l. 10s.*? Or why should the Supported have better Credit than the Supporter?





LETTER III.

SIR,



S, since the Publication of the foregoing Papers, the Scene of Affairs has been entirely altered, and a Method of Reduction, has been found out by Multiplication; I take the Liberty to make my Observations upon it.

We ought to distinguish between Publick Credit and Paper Credit; if the Parliament shall make good to the People, the Money they have borrowed of them, for their own Preservation, surely the Ends of Publick Credit are entirely answered.

To expect that they should make good, or even encourage the extravagant Prices, that the Folly and Madness of the People, have put upon Paper Credit, is as ridiculous and absurd, as to expect them to make good the two *Insurances*, *New Africa*, *York-Buildings*, *Copper and Brass*, and all the rest of the scandalous Projects,

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that have been set on Foot by crafty and designing Men, to enrich a few at the Expence, and to the Ruin of many thousand Families.

And here I cannot but observe, that the Parliament, foreseeing the Ruin, that would come on the People, made a most strict Act, to prevent all scandalous Projects: But to what Purpose serve Acts of Parliament, when our most eminent Lawyers shall make it their Study to break through them, and shall have the Impudence to give it under their Hands, in what Manner the Force of the Statutes may be invaded, and the same pernicious Designs carried on, without coming under the Letter of the Act, as they term it.

If the Burthen of the Nation's Debts was so grievous as not to be born, when it exceeded not 50 Millions, how insupportable must it be, when the Humour of the People shall raise it to 400 Millions?

If the Foreigners gained near *Cent.* per *Cent.* upon us, when the *South-Sea* Stock was only at 119, and the rest of the Publick Securities, in Proportion, not all the Species in the Kingdom, nor even all the Produce of it, could make good to them the Value of their Credit in our Funds, when the *South-Sea* Stock was at 1000.

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The sudden Fall of the Stocks was our only Preservation ; for had the Rise continued till this Day, the Demands from abroad must have ruined us.

If the Ballance of Trade was against us, when we only paid the Foreigners 100 *per Annum*, for their long Annuities, in what Species could we propose to pay them 373. *per Annum* for the same ?

I know no Way, unless Sir *J*— *B*— can make good his Assertion, That all the Gold and Silver in *Europe* would be brought in to us in a very short Time ; and Sir *H*— *y M*— *th* can perswade the Foreigners to take his new Paper Species in Lieu of it.

Though I am perswaded, should the Foreigners send back the Species, it would be like Bird-lime, only to lick away more with it.

For, if they draw away at 1000, and send back to buy at 200, and have afterwards an Opportunity of drawing away again at 400, Who are to be the Losers ?

I am very well perswaded, that the Parliament, when they entrusted the *South-Sea Company* with so large a Power, never thought they would make such an extravagant Use of it.

For

For it has been always accounted the Wisdom of the Senate, to prevent extravagant Gaming, and if the *South-Sea* has not been such, I know not what can be so.

If the Directors of the *South-Sea* Company have misused the Power intrusted with them, it is the Busines of the Senate to enquire into such *Misuse*.

And surely, if the King is accountable to the People for the *Misuse* of the Power intrusted with him ; the People are accountable for the *Abuse* of the Power intrusted with them.

I would not add to the Calumny, that has been laid on the Knaves within Doors, because I am perfwaded, without the Assistance of the Knaves and Fools without Doors, they could not have effected their Purposes.

The Busines is, how to extricate our selves from the Difficulties we now labour under ; Which, without a steady Resolution, and a disinterested Management, is intirely impossible.

As therefore, Sir, you have a large Share in the Present Administration, and as an able Minister ought to act, as an able Physician, who has no Regard to the Madness and Raving of his Patient, but applies such proper Remedies, as are likely

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to effect his Cure, so ought you to use your Endeavours to apply such necessary Restraints to the present Madness of the People, as may hinder them from running headlong to their own Destruction.

Sir, The present Confusion of our Affairs makes it almost impracticable to find a Remedy, till the Wisdom of the Senate have taken the whole into their Consideration: And as the *Irredeemable* and *Redeemable* have been hurried headlong into the *South-Sea*, without their own Consent, or even knowing on what Terms; I am perswaded, could they be extricated out of that Labyrinth, they would readily consent to such Measures, as may yet retrieve the languishing Condition of Publick Credit, always distinguished from the Chimical Value that is put upon Paper Credit.

SIR,

Your Most

OCT. 18. 1720.

Obedient Servant.

F I N I S.

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